

VERIFICATION OF TRANSLATION

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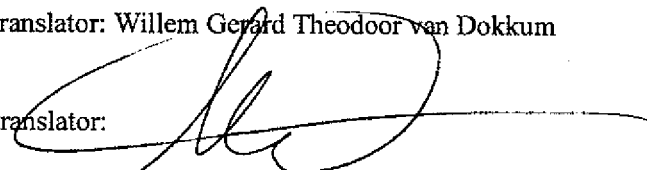
I am knowledgeable in the English language and in the language in which Netherlands application No. 1024734 was filed on November 7, 2003, and that I believe an English language translation, submitted herewith, is an accurate translation of the above-Netherlands application as filed.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: November 11, 2009

Full name of the translator: Willem Gerard Theodoor van Dokkum

Signature of the translator:



Post Office Address: Muller & Eilbracht B.V.

P.O. Box 1080

NL-2260 BB Leidschendam

Title: Fast applicable hair piece provided with a weaving band completely integrated with basic hair and method for attaching thereof.

5 The invention relates to a fast applicable hair piece for obtaining a special esthetical effect like e.g. a colour effect or a hair volume effect. The hair piece comprises at least one thin, broad and flat hair piece consisting of parallelley oriented hairs, and a lightweight and thin elongated weaving band comprising regular weaving elements made from hair or from another suitable material like e.g. cotton or a synthetic material such that the hair piece may be completely integrated with the basic hair and is easily removable, having a remarkable high wearing comfort for the user. Furthermore the invention relates to a method for attaching the fast applicable hair piece.

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15 Hair pieces used in modern hair fashion and hair cosmetics are applied for hair extension or for hair shaping, but also for obtaining a special esthetical effect like e.g. a colour effect, volume effect etc. Hair pieces usually must meet many different, contradictory requirements, which must be met by modern hair pieces, made of artificial or natural hair. Additionally to the above-mentioned objectives these hair pieces must be easily (at low costs) attachable and also be easily removable and also must provide high wearing comfort to the user in order to obtain the feeling of: "like his own hair". At the same time said hair pieces must be shape retaining, durable and weatherproof and also shampoo etc. resistant but must also be usable by applying a minimum amount of adhesive and must also be reusable. In order to meet these and other requirements several extension/coupling methods have been developed, like a braiding method, a cornrow method, micro linking technique and also a method by using clips. Further a modern hair piece may be shaped as a relatively thin, broad and flat hair bundle which at the position of the first free end (hair tops) is provided transversely with a known weaving band, firstly for mutual interconnection of the hairs and secondly for obtaining a surface for interconnection with the basic hair. Moreover the weaving band may be made from natural or artificial hair, but also from a strip/sheet shaped flexible plastic strip. Such a hair piece with weaving band which may be easily connected and removed from the basic hair or natural hair of a person is also called a weft.

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With the braiding-method knots of basic hair are braided into the hair piece which is either provided or not with a weaving band. For the execution of this labour intensive method experienced and educated labourers are necessary, what will result in (too) high costs.

5 With the cornrow-method firstly a strip of basic hair is taken, in an horizontal direction upon the skull, which strip is brought into the required braid-form. In other words in a form whereby the hair piece may be coupled by means of an adhesive or by means of a sewed connection.

Besides labour intensive an other great disadvantage of this method is that a less comfortable hair lump is formed upon the users skull, which is an aesthetically weak point.

10 Micro-linking technique comprises integrating into the weaving band of a plurality of specially shaped bushes or rings, made from metal or plastic, so called micro-links. A plurality of suitable small amounts of basic hair is subsequently mechanically anchored into said micro-links by using a therefore suitable tools like a pincers or similar. This method of using a hair piece is labour intensive and furthermore the contact between said micro-links and the skull skin may be uncomfortable, whereby even skin itching may not be ruled out.

20 Non of the aforementioned, but also none of all other well known methods of hair extension by using a hair piece which is provided with a weaving band, gives a solution for all the aforementioned requirements.

By the special construction of the new fast applicable hair piece according to the invention, which hair piece is provided with a weaving band, which may be completely integrated with the basic hair, all above-mentioned objectives are achieved.

25 According to the invention the hair piece for connection with basic hair comprises the following elements:

- 30 - at least one thin, broad and flat hair bundle consisting of a number of parallelly oriented hairs,
- a lightweight and thin elongated weaving band comprising regular weaving elements made from hair or another suitable material, like cotton or a synthetic material,

35 and whereby at least one of the hair bundle with his outer end is interconnected with the weaving band, whereby the hairs individually or in groups are connected with the weaving elements of the weaving band,

whereby the weaving band is provided with connection openings, provided at a regular mutual distance, which connection openings are suitable for conducting through the weaving band an amount of basic hairs for connecting the hair piece within the basic hair.

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The special design and shape of this weaving band is characterized by a number, but also pairs or groups (e.g. 2, 3 or 4), of substantially large recesses being provided at regular mutual distance of e.g. 2 cm in the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said hair bundle. A number of hair of the hair piece may also be weaved over the upper edge of the weaving band. A suitable number of basic hair may be passed through said connection openings and subsequently be interconnected by means of a suitable method by using adhesion/adhesive means, but also by means of braiding, knotting, rolling or the like. As a result a temporary, durable, however eventually easily removable connection between the hair piece and the basic hair will be formed, in such a way that the hair piece is reusable and at the same time it offers a remarkable high wearing comfort to the user.

The method for attaching a hair piece into the basic hair according to the invention comprises the following steps:

- a) attaching the weaving band of the hair piece in close vicinity of the hair roots of the basic hair,
- b) conducting at least one time a number of basic hairs (knots of hair) through a connection opening of the weaving band,
- c) interconnecting the passed through knot of basic hair with the weaving band or with another knot of basic hair by means of other means while using a method known per se,
- d) repeating the steps c) till d) for another pair of openings located in the weaving band until the hair piece is sufficiently fixedly connected with the basic hair along the length of the weaving band.

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In an embodiment a suitable number of basic hair (knots of hair), which are conducted through the openings within the weaving band of the fast applicable hair piece, is provided with an adhesion piece, made from adhesive, provided at a suitable distance of about 2 - 3 cm of the weaving band. This adhesion piece in cross-section is shaped as a straight and/or diverging C,I,L or U-shaped profile or the like and either provided

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or not with interior or exterior ribs for obtaining an increased contact surface for connection with the basic hair.

5 A well known device comprises a set of claws, which may be used, optionally by applying heat, for obtaining a compact connection between said adhesion piece of the weaving band or hair piece respectively with the basic hair. The special design of said adhesion piece and also the device is related to an invention extensively described in the Dutch patent application nr. 1021900 - "Herbruikbaar haarverlengstuk en inrichting en werkwijze voor het gebruiken ervan [Reusable hair extension and method for use thereof]" of the applicant.

10 Furthermore said adhesion piece may be attached onto basic hair at a suitable distance from the weaving band, e.g. 2 - 3 cm by means of a thin sheet-shaped (disposable) hull, made e.g. from aluminium foil.

15 Particularly the connection openings are being provided between the weaving elements, interconnected with the hairs of the weaving band.

In this way a hair piece is obtained comprising a weaving band having a colour corresponding to the colour of the hair piece and which may be economically and easily attached into the basic hair.

20 Particularly the connection openings are being formed by weaving band loops or by joined weaving elements.

In this way said hair piece may be manufactured easily and at low costs.

25 More preferably the hair piece comprises two hair bundles whereby the weaving band is configured from two weaving band portions, which portions are interconnected in such a way, that each hair bundle on its outer end is connected with a weaving band portion and the openings are being formed by the free space available between both weaving band portions and the connection elements.

30 Advantageously openings may be easily formed between the weaving band portions of this hair piece by applying connection elements. Furthermore said hair piece may be easily unfolded and folded due to the relatively loose connection elements between the weaving band portions. Furthermore with this embodiment the hair connection means mounted onto the knots of basis hair may be invisible integrated between both hair bundles.

In particular the connection elements are connection cords.

By interconnecting both weaving band portions with cords an hair piece is obtained which may be economically and easily manufactured and whereby the openings are formed between the connection cords and the weaving band portions.

5 Preferably the method for attaching a hair piece into basic hair comprises the following steps:

- a) unfolding the hair piece in a flat plane in such a way that the free ends of the hair bundles being connected with the weaving bands are extending in an opposite direction with respect to each other,
- 10 b) positioning of the weaving band of the hair piece in close vicinity of the hair roots, whereby the hair bundles are remaining to extend in an opposite direction,
- c) conducting at least one time a number of basic hairs (knot of hair) through a connection opening of the hair piece,
- d) interconnecting the passed through knot of basic hair with the weaving band or
15 with another knot of basic hair by means of other means while using a method known per se,
- d) repeating the steps c) till d) for another pair of connection openings within the weaving band until the hair piece is sufficiently fixedly connected with the basic hair along the length of the weaving band.

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The hair piece with two hair bundles may be easily attached, because the unfolded hair piece may be easily temporarily positioned into the basic hair at the correct location for conducting through knots of basic hair. Furthermore the connection means are easily concealed from view by folding up both hair bundles of the hair piece.

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The invention will now be described by means of an embodiment shown in of the drawing.

- Fig. 1 shows a frontal view of the hair piece according to the invention;
- 30 Fig. 2 shows a side view of back side of the hair piece according to the invention;
- Fig. 3 shows a side view of the hair piece according to the invention;
- Fig. 4 shows a perspective view of the hair piece according to the invention;
- Fig. 5 shows a perspective view of the phase of applying the hair piece, according to the invention;
- 35 Fig. 6 shows a perspective view of a subsequent phase of applying the hair piece according to the invention;

Fig. 7 shows schematically a phase, shown in Fig.6, of applying the hair piece according to the invention;

Fig. 8 shows schematically two different connection embodiment for applying a hair piece according to the invention;

5 Fig. 9 shows a front view of a hair piece having two hair bundles;

Fig.10 shows a perspective view of an unfolded hair piece with two hair bundles and a mounted hair connection means,

Fig.11 shows a perspective view of an half folded up hair piece of Fig.10, and

Fig.12 shows a perspective view of the completely folded up hair piece of Fig.10.

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As shown in Fig.1 hair piece 1 according to the invention comprises a broad hair bundle (hair strip) 3 which on its upper side is provided with a specially shaped weaving band, which connects the free outer ends of all the hairs at the upper side of the hair bundle 3 into a compact assembly. This weaving band of the hair piece 1 is hereby not visible; seen from the side directed towards the outer circumference of the skull (hereafter indicated as "front side"). Good visible are the thereto, at a regular mutual distance of e.g. 2 cm, provided pairs of recesses or openings 4 for connecting with the basic hair (no shown).

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In Fig.2 a weaving band 2 is shown upon the back side of the fast applicable hair piece 1. In this embodiment the weaving band 2 is made from braided hair of the same quality as the hair bundle 3. As a result a very lightweight and flexible hair piece 1 is obtained, which may be easily integrated with basic hair. The openings 4 are configured from weaving elements 11 with weaving band loops, but they also may be configured by joining together of weaving elements. In the example of Fig.2 the openings are configured between the weaving elements and the with the weaving elements interconnected hairs of the hair bundle 3. This has the advantage that by the braided hairs of the hair bundle the inherent colour of the weaving band will not be visible anymore.

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The hair bundle 3 of the fast applicable hair piece 1, in side view according to Fig.3 and in perspective view according to Fig.4 respectively, has a substantial thickness, which is obtained by the special design of the weaving band (in both views therefore not visible). A complete spatial integration with the basic hair is thereby achieved, whereby in practice the hair piece becomes invisible.

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The fast applicable hair piece 1 in a first application phase is positioned in the vicinity of the basic hair at the desired location 6 of the user 5. The basic hair is thereby divided into an upper portion 7 and a lower portion 8 by means of a straight dividing line 9. Subsequently two knots of hair 9a and 9b of the basic hair 6, as shown in Fig.6, are conducted through the recesses or openings 4 of the weaving band (not visible) of the hair piece 1.

In order to clarify this application phase the knots of basic hair 9a and 9b, pulled through the recesses or openings 4' and 4'' of the weaving band (not shown) of the hair piece, are separately shown in Fig.7. Conducting through of knots of basic hair 9a and 9b is performed with a crochet hook 10 known per se. Each knot of basic hair 9a, 9b is divided into a left knot 9a', 9b' and a right knot 9a'', 9b''. In the next application phase the knots 9a' with 9a'' as well as 9b' and 9b'', which have been conducted through adjacent openings in the weaving band, are interconnected at a suitable distance of e.g. 2 - 3 cm with respect to the openings; thereby using means and applying a suitable, known, method. If desired the conducted through knots of basic hair 9 may be individually connected with the weaving band or with the hair bundle, e.g. at the outer end of the hair piece when no second knot of basic hair is available for connection.

In Fig.8 is shown how knots of basic hair 9b' and 9b'' are attached onto an adhesion piece, made from adhesive, at a suitable distance of e.g. 2 - 3 cm from the openings 4', 4'' (weaving band). This adhesion piece in cross-section is shaped as a straight and/or diverging C,I,L or U-shaped profile or the like and either provided or not with interior or exterior ribs. Furthermore this adhesion piece may be connected with the basic hair into a compact assembly, either using or not of a suitable device and by applying heat. It is clear that said application phases are repeated in the longitudinal direction for the remaining recesses of said weaving band.

In Fig.9 the embodiment of the hair piece is shown having two hair bundles 3. The first hair bundle 3', shown in Fig.9, is connected with weaving band portion 2', which may be provided with weaving elements for interconnecting hairs or groups of hair of hair bundle 3. At the upper side the first weaving band portion 2' is connected with second weaving band portion 2'' by means of connection elements 12. In folded up position of the hair piece of Fig.9 the second hair bundle and the therewith interconnected second weaving band, is not visible under the first weaving band.

In Fig.10 the double hair piece 1 is shown in unfolded state with first hair bundle 3' connected with first weaving band portion 2' and second hair bundle 3'' connected with second weaving band portion 2''. Both weaving bands portions are mutually interconnected by means of connection elements 12; in this example configured as 'zigzag' attached connection cords between the weaving band portions. Openings 4' and 4'' are thereby formed by the free space available between the connection elements 12 and the weaving bands 2' and 2''. Two knots of basic hair 9', 9'' are conducted through two adjacent connection openings 4' and 4'' and are interconnected at a suitable distance of e.g. 2 - 3 cm from the openings 4', 4'' by means of a suitable hair connection means, like a clamping element 13. When needed once more knots of basic hair 9', 9'' may be conducted through other free openings formed in the hair piece and be mutually interconnected to each other in order to fixedly and firmly connect the hair piece with the basic hair. Furthermore knots of passed through basic hair 9 may be individually connected with the weaving band or with the hair bundle for example at the outer end of the hair piece when no second knot of basic hair is available for connecting.

In Fig.10 is shown that after the hair piece is fixedly connected with the basic hair, the first hair bundle 3' with weaving band 2' is folded back over its flexible folding zone configured by the connection elements 12, so that the interconnected knots of basic hair 9 together with the hair connection means 13 are hardly visible, because they are hidden between the first and the second hair bundle 3' and 3''.

In Fig.12 is shown the folded up hair piece as it is worn in the basic hair of a person. Hair piece is hanging on the interconnected knots of basic hair 9 which were passed through the connection openings configured between the weaving bands portions 2', 2''.

Due to the above mentioned measures the hair piece according to the invention may be connected with the basic hair in substantially shorter time, so that the flexural strain and the tension strain and the weaving band respectively are reduced to a minimum.

It will be clear that within the scope of the invention more embodiments are possible so that all technical equivalents known to a person skilled in the art are also considered to be part of the inventive idea.

(Claims)

CLAIMS

1. Hair piece for connection with basic hair comprising:
 - at least one thin, broad and flat hair bundle consisting of a number of
5 parallelly oriented hairs,
 - a lightweight and thin elongated weaving band comprising regular weaving
 elements made from hair or another suitable material, like cotton or a
 synthetic material,
 and whereby at least one hair bundle with its outer ends is interconnected
10 individually or in groups with the weaving elements of the weaving band,
 whereby the weaving band is provided with connection openings, provided at a
 regular mutual distance, which connection openings are suitable for conducting
 through the weaving band an amount of basic hairs for connecting the hair piece
 within the basic hair.
- 15 2. Hair piece according to claim 1, characterized in that the connection openings are
 being provided between the weaving elements, interconnected with the hairs of
 the weaving band.
- 20 3. Hair piece according to claim 2, characterized in that the connection openings are
 being formed by weaving band loops or by joined weaving elements.
- 25 4. Hair piece according to claims 1, characterized in that the hair piece comprises
 two hair bundles whereby the weaving band is configured from two weaving band
 portions, which portions are interconnected in such a way, that each hair bundle
 on its outer end is connected with weaving band portions and the openings are
 formed by the free space available between both weaving band portions and the
 connection elements.
- 30 5. Hair piece according to claim 4, characterized in that the connection elements are
 connection cords.

6. Method for attaching into basic hair a hair piece according to anyone of the preceding claims 1 - 5 comprising the following steps:
- 5 a) attaching the weaving band of the hair piece in close vicinity of the hair roots of the basic hair,
 - b) conducting at least one time a number of basic hairs (knots of hair) through a connection opening of the weaving band,
 - c) interconnecting the passed through knot of basic hair with the weaving band or with another knot of basic hair by means of other means while using a method
10 known per se,
 - d) repeating the steps b) till c) for another pair of openings located in the weaving band until the hair piece is sufficiently fixedly connected with the basic hair along the length of the weaving band.
- 15 7. Method for attaching a hair piece having two hair bundles according to the claims 4 - 5 comprising the following steps:
- a) unfolding the hair piece in a flat plane in such a way that the free ends of the hair bundles being connected with the weaving bands are extending in an opposite direction with respect to each other,
 - 20 b) positioning of the weaving band of the hair piece in close vicinity of the hair roots, whereby the hair bundles are remaining to extend in an opposite direction,
 - c) conducting at least one time a number of basic hairs (knot of hair) through a connection opening of the hair piece,
 - d) interconnecting the passed through knot of basic hair with the weaving band or
25 with another knot of basic hair by means of other means while using a method known per se,
 - d) repeating the steps c) till d) for another pair of connection openings within the weaving band until the hair piece is sufficiently fixedly connected with the basic hair along the length of the weaving band.

8. Method for attaching a hair piece according to claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the method known per se for connecting joint basic hairs comprises the following steps:

5 positioning of an adhesion piece onto the joint basic hairs which piece in cross-section is shaped as a straight and/or diverging C,I,L or U-shaped profile or the like, either provided or not with interior or exterior ribs,
fixedly interconnecting the adhesion piece with the joint hairs by application of a method known per se like compressing or shrinking, either with or without using a
10 suitable means and/or by the application of heat.

9. Method for interconnecting basic hair with a hair piece according to claim 8, characterized in that the adhesion piece is attached onto basic hair by means of a thin sheet-shaped hull, made e.g. from aluminium foil, at a suitable distance from
15 the weaving band like e.g. 2-3 cm.

ABSTRACT

5 The invention relates to a fast applicable hair piece for obtaining a special esthetical effect like e.g. a colour effect or a hair volume effect having a remarkable high wearing comfort for the user. The hair bundle is provided at its free end with a lightweight and thin elongated weaving band made from hair or from another suitable material like e.g. cotton or a synthetic material comprising regularly weaving
10 elements. This weaving band is characterized by a number, but also pairs or groups (e.g. 2, 3 or 4), of substantially large recesses being provided at regular mutual distance of e.g. 2 cm in the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said hair bundle.

A suitable number of basic hairs may be passed through said pairs of recesses or may
15 be mutually interconnected on the other side of the weaving band. As a result a temporarily, durable however eventually easily removable connection between the hair piece and the basic hair will be formed, in such a way that the hair piece is always reusable. Furthermore the invention relates to a method for attaching this fast applicable hair piece.

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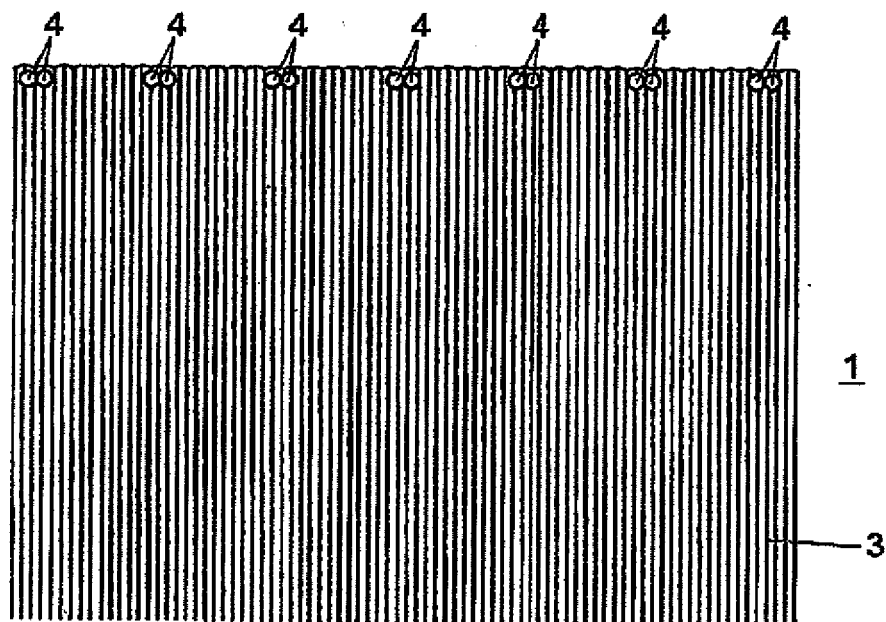


FIG. 1

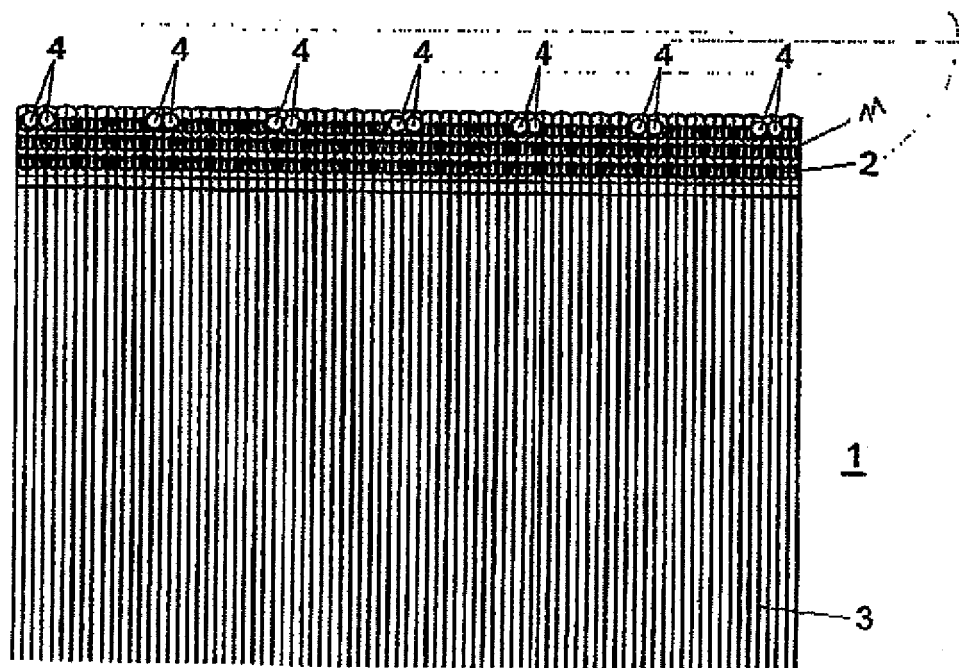


FIG. 2

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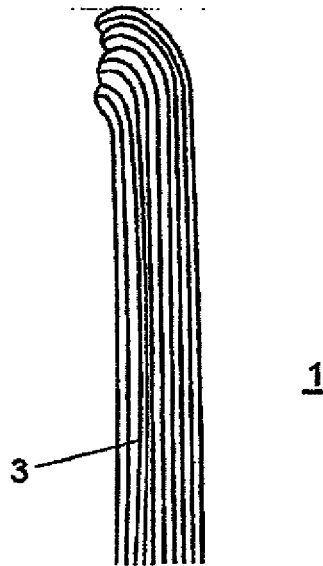


FIG. 3

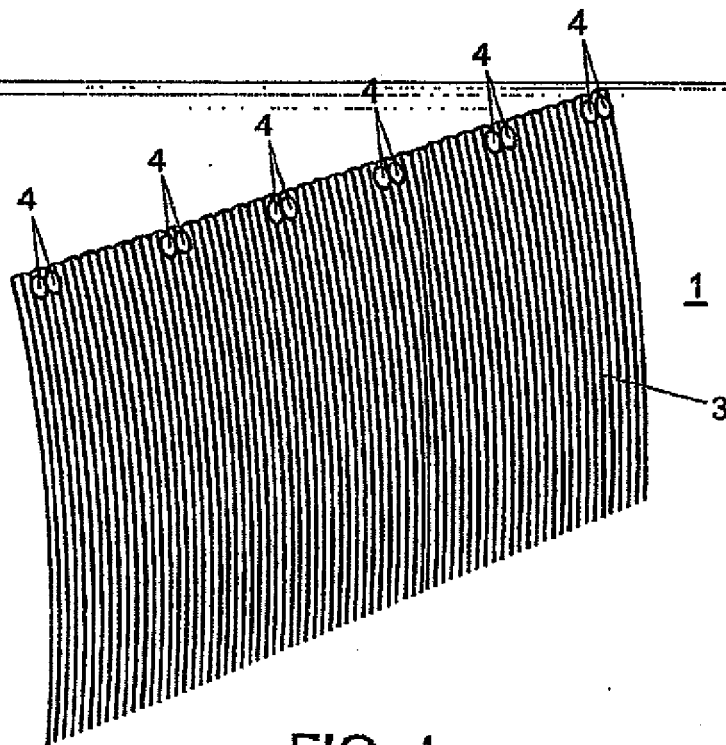


FIG. 4

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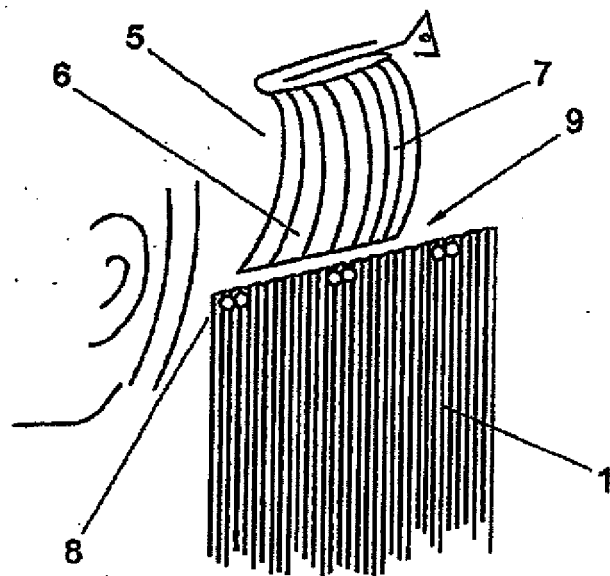


FIG. 5

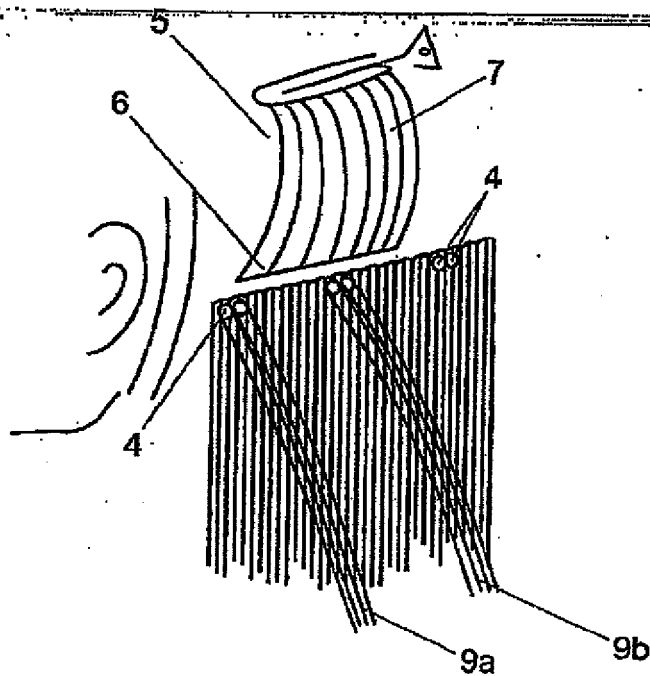


FIG. 6

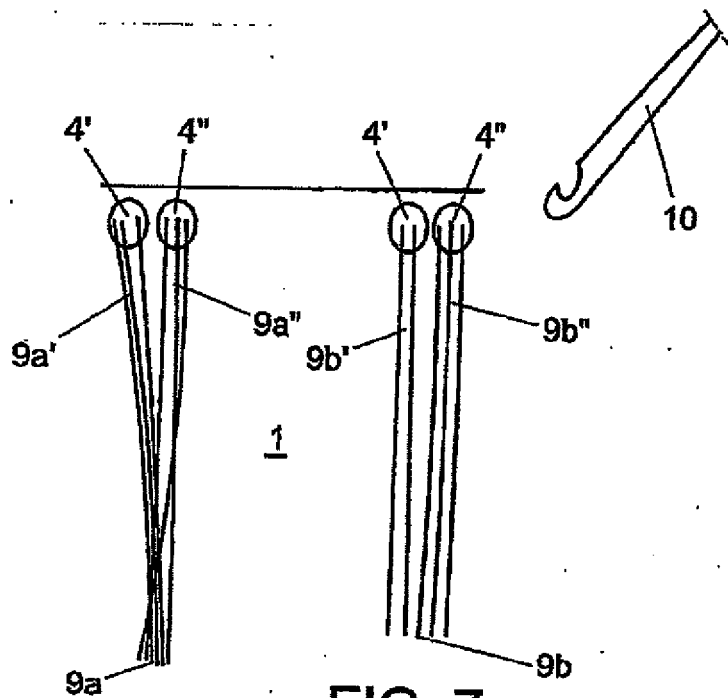


FIG. 7

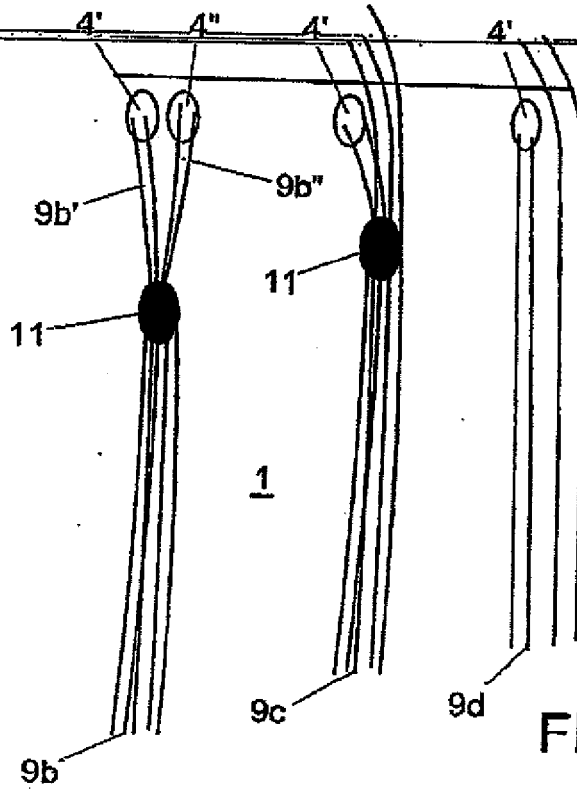


FIG. 8

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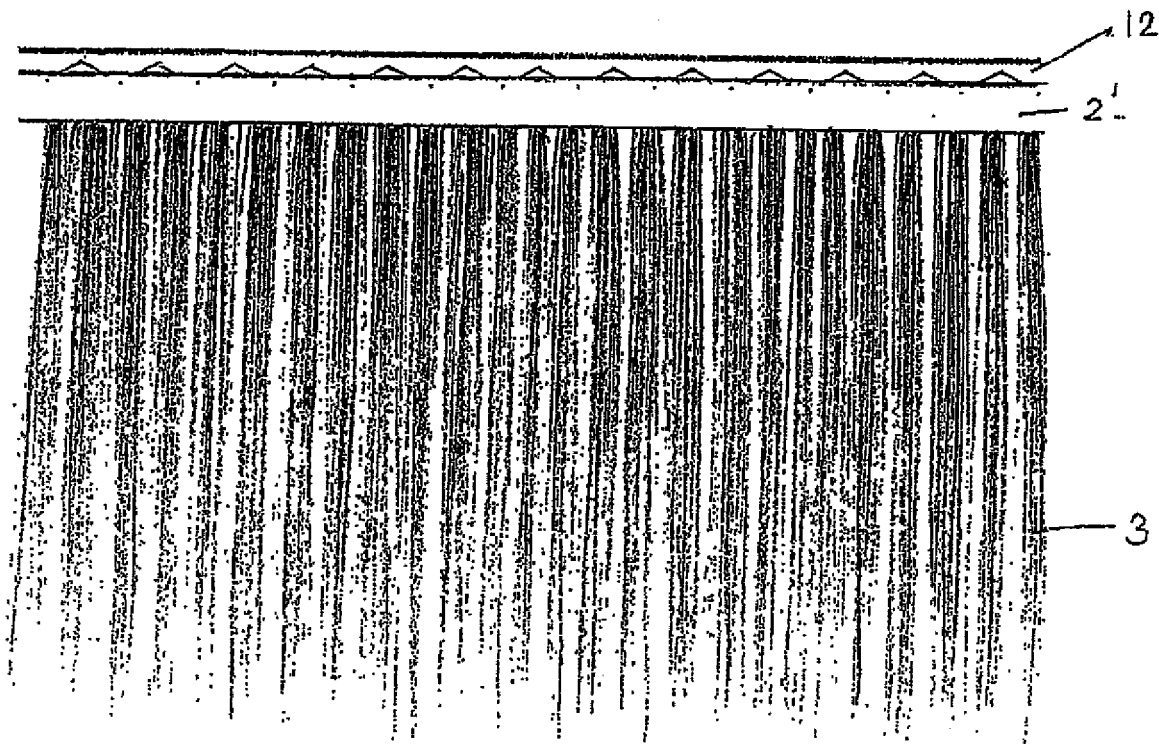


Fig. 9.

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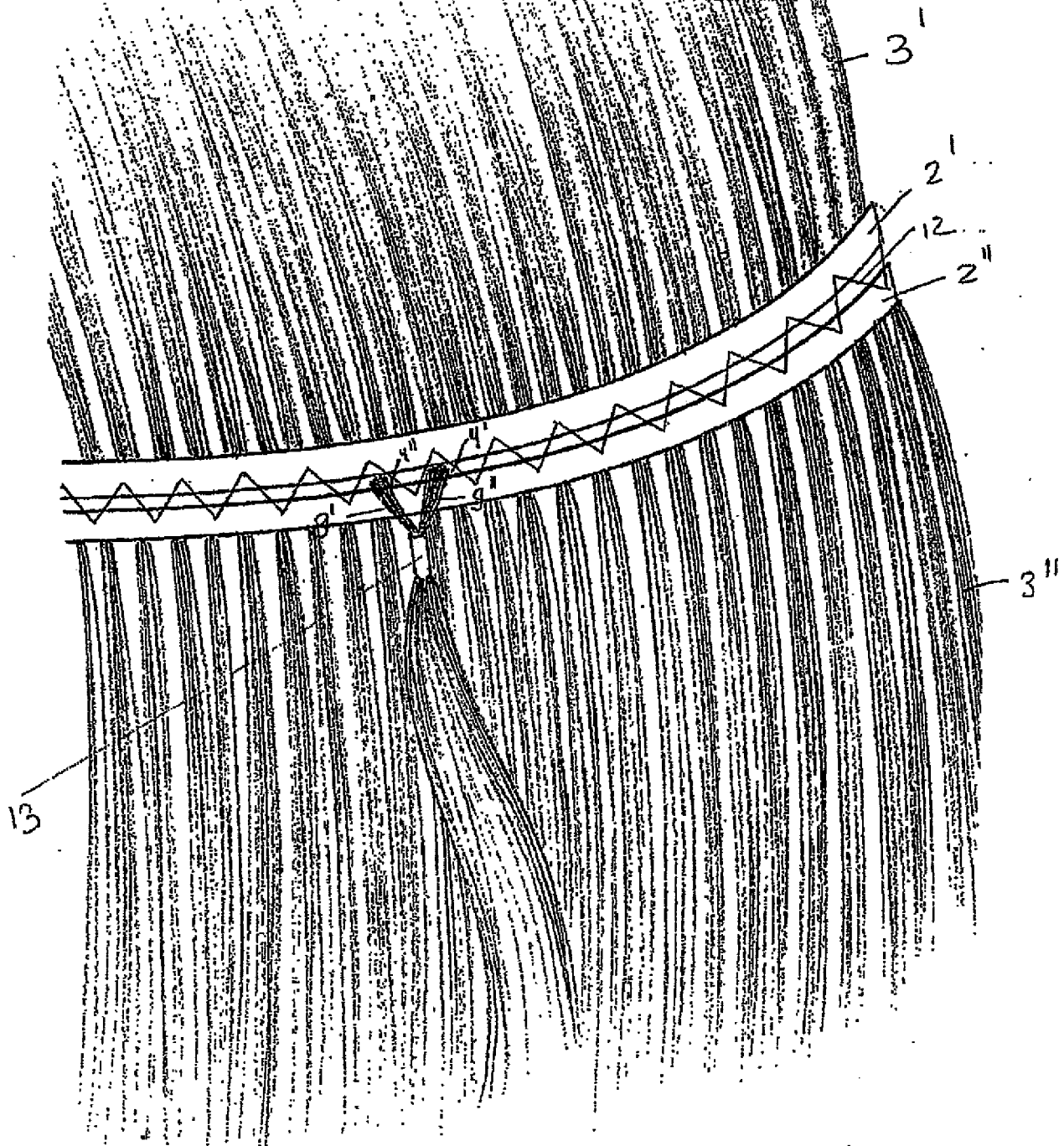


Fig. 10

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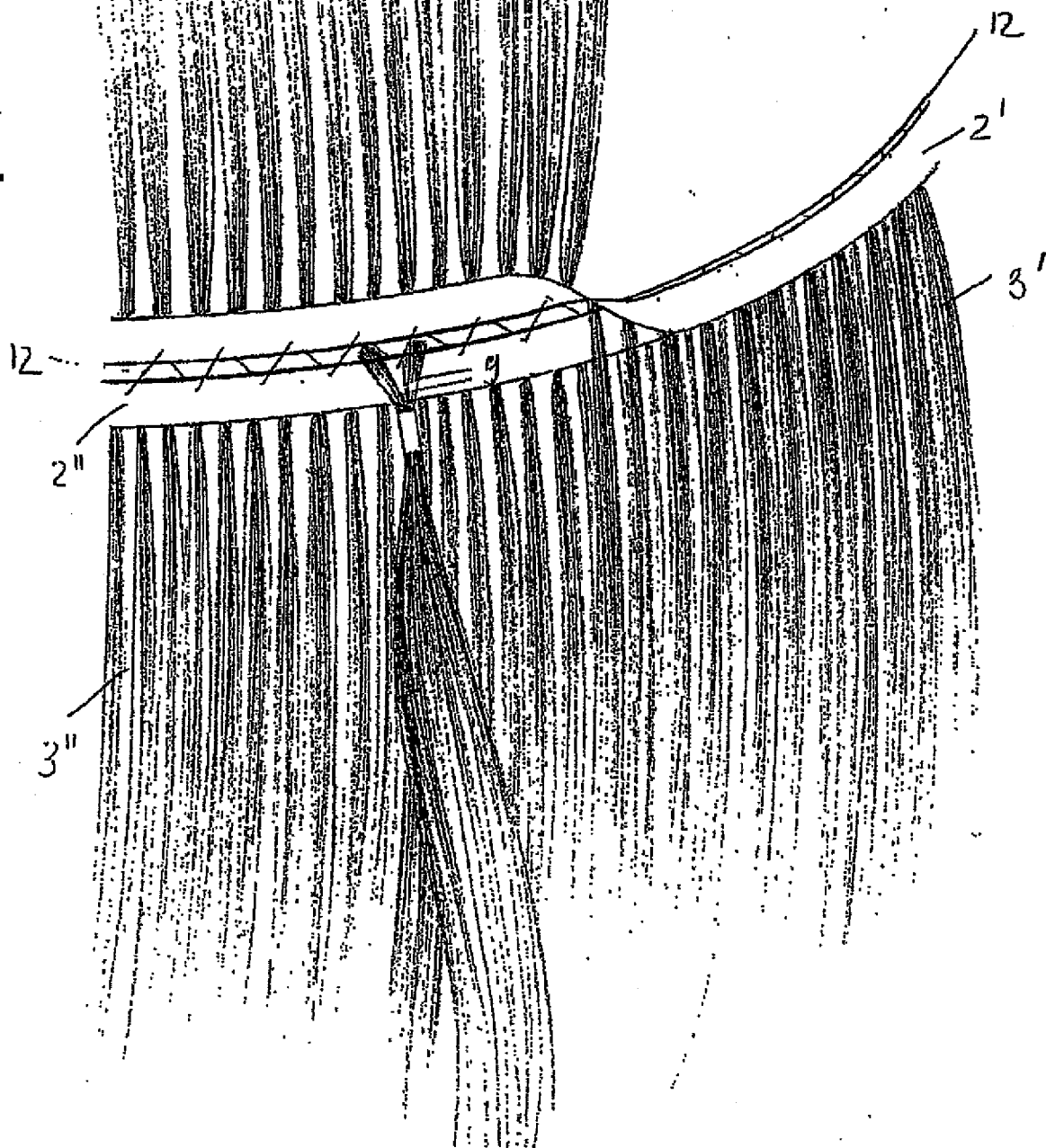


Fig. 11

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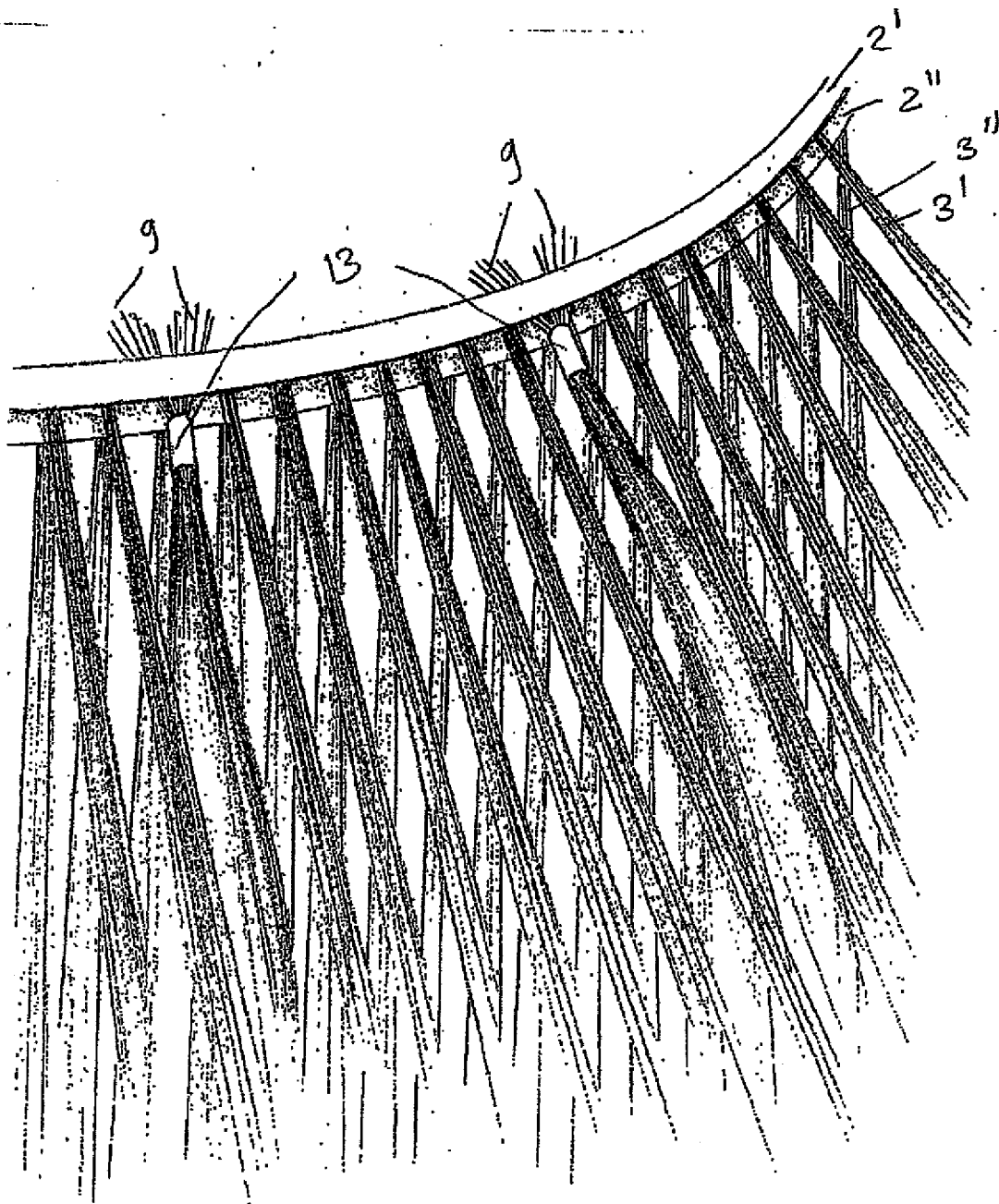


Fig. 12